As for publicising such activities, a Seminar was arranged during November, 91 at the Institute for voluntary, Government and other interested agencies to disseminate know-how on the design of Kedar Kuti. A publication entitled 'Kedar Kuti' was also published in Hindi for use of agencies undertaking earthquake relief work in Uttar Kashi region. A few prototypes of Kedar Kuti were erected by the Institute for demonstration purposes at Roorkee and at Uttar Kashi.

The Institute is further envisaging to provide on-the-spot training in the relevant building technologies to supervisors, masons and other skilled and unskilled workers in various villages of Maharashtra region hit by recent earthquakes.

1041. [*Transferred to 17th December, 1993*]

**Recommendations of the Expert Committee Constituted for the Prediction of Earthquakes**

1042. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government had constituted an expert committee in 1987 on revamping earthquake prediction;

(b) if so, whether the committee had submitted its report to Government and made several recommendations;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the expert committee;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have not acted upon the recommendations of the Committee and buried the report; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**INDO—US Technological Relations Consequent on Cryogenic Deal Controversy**

1043. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-US co-operation in Science and Technology is under stress, following the scuttling of the transfer of Cryogenic engine technology from Russia;

(b) if so, whether the strained relations will adversely affect the joint Indo-US research Programme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the US has proposed a new agreement on Science and Technology;

(d) if so, details of the US proposal; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Since October 1989, the U.S. Government has been reviewing all new or expanded cooperative bilateral Science and Technology projects in the light of their position on Intellectual Property Rights. This review is not linked to the cancellation or otherwise of cryogenic engine deal with Russia.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The proposed objective is to facilitate opportunities for cooperation in scientific and technological

fields of mutual interest, through activities which may include exchange of scientific and technological information, joint research projects, exchange of scientists and technical experts, convening of seminars and meetings and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be mutually agreed. Cooperative activities would be subject to the laws and regulations in each country.

**US Stand on MTCR**

1044. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have decided not to support development or acquisition of space launch vehicles in countries outside the Missile Technology Control Regime; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All dual use items, as interpreted by USA, which can be used in the development of rocket technology, even for peaceful applications, are banned for export. The Government of India, being fully aware of this situation, is committed to building self reliance in this area.

**Indian Claim for Damages for Breach of Cryogenic Deal by Russia**

1045. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to claim damage for unilateral breach of contract by Russia in respect of the Cryogenic rocket engine deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Russian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

NESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Consequent to the declaration of force majeure clause, a Russian team has arrived in India for discussions on the future course of action with respect to the Agreement.

**Imminent Danger to Earth from Comets**

1046. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Earth under threat from comets" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25th October, 1993;

(b) whether, according to an eminent astrophysicist of the Nehru Planetarium, Bombay, the earth is under the constant danger of being hit space-borne objects; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A number of comets and meteorites approach the earth and at times come very close to it. Apart from these heavenly bodies, smaller particles and objects having sizes upto about few centimeters constantly enter the earth's